

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of removing sulphides and other volatile contaminants from liquor vapor condensate from a pulp manufacturing process, ~~characterized therein~~ comprising, ~~that the feeding~~ said liquor vapor condensate ~~is fed~~ into a stripper (1), which is part of a closed loop comprising said stripper (1) and a regenerative thermal oxidizer process (RTO)(2), in which loop a gas (4), ~~primarily consisting of~~ comprising air and ~~such~~ components formed or stripped off in the loop, is circulated, and where the circulating gas is stripping off sulphides and other volatile components from the liquor vapor condensate (5), whereafter the gas stream (6) exiting said stripper (1) is fed into a said RTO-process (2), where the stripped off components are combusted under formation of SO₂, and thereafter feeding ~~is~~ the SO₂ enriched gas (7) ~~fed either~~ to a SO₂ scrubber (3), ~~where preferably alkali is used as absorption medium (8)~~, whereafter the circulating gas is returned to the stripper (1).

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in, that~~ wherein the SO₂ scrubber (3) is part of the closed loop.

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, ~~characterized in, that~~ further comprising bleeding off from said loop a ~~minor~~ portion of the gas (10) in said loop, ~~is bled off~~

~~from the loop, at the same time air or some other oxygen containing gas (9) is supplied to said loop, to ensure that sufficient oxygen is present to safeguard that the oxidation in the RTO process (2) takes place.~~

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in, that the alkali (8) used as absorption medium is oxidized white liquor~~ claim 1, wherein alkali (8) is used as an absorption medium in said SO₂ scrubber.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in, that~~ wherein the degree of acidification in the SO₂ scrubber (3) is controlled to ensure sufficient amount of SO₂ remaining in the gas (4) when it is returned to the stripper ~~(15)~~ (1), where SO₂ acidifies the condensate (5) and thereby contributes to enhance the stripping off of sulphides from the condensate.

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in, that~~ wherein a heat exchanger is installed ~~at a suitable place~~ in the closed loop, to recover or supply energy and thereby to control the temperature in the system.

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in, that~~ wherein the amount of recirculated gas versus the amount of condensate is controlled for the purpose of optimizing the methanol content in the condensate.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 3, ~~characterized in, that~~ wherein the gas (10) being bled off from

the system is minimized by ~~using~~ adding pure oxygen or an oxygen enriched air mixture to said loop, necessary as make up gas (9) for ~~the~~ said oxidation.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in, that the~~ further comprising scrubbing said bled off gas (10) ~~from the system is scrubbed~~ with regard to SO₂ in a separate scrubber, ~~which preferably is made up of several absorption steps.~~

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein aid absorption medium is oxidized white liquor.